

OKAMOTO et al.
Appln. No. 10/736,635
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.111

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended and new Claims 22 and 23 have been added.

The Examiner is thanked for her acknowledgement of Applicant's claim to priority.

Claims 1-11, 13-17, and 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,210,872 to Hosaki et al. ("Hosaki").

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

Hosaki is relied on to teach a liquid crystal polyester having structural units (A) and (B) as essential structural units (col. 1, lines 60-63). The structural unit (A) is formed from a benzenetricarboxylic acid or a trihydroxybenzene (col. 2, lines 62-63). Since the structural unit (A) has three carboxyl groups, the resulting polyester disclosed in Hosaki has a net-like structure with cross-linking bonds due to the three carboxyl groups.

On the other hand, the presently claimed polyester consists essentially of repeating units derived from 2-hydroxy-6-naphthioic acid, aromatic diol and aromatic dicarboxylic acid, all of which have two hydroxyl or carboxyl groups. Therefore, the polyester has a linear structure, which is different from the polyester in Hosaki having a net-like structure.

In addition, there is no motivation for one of skill in the art to modify the polyester in Hosaki so as to have a polyester which has a linear structure, since the polyester in Hosaki essentially has structural units (A) and (B). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention would not have been obvious from Hosaki.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



John T. Callahan
Registration No. 32,607

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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Date: January 19, 2005